

they need to go into the areas that Senator Schimek was talking about. The committee felt that and worked with Corrections as well, that that will get them through this particular portion of the rest of the budgetary year, and then next year when we start working on the biennium budget, we will be able to ascertain whether or not more are needed or whether what we did this year was accurate. And, hopefully, there won't be a crisis that will dictate that, it will be a noncrisis situation. But I believe what we have in the budget at this point is a strong step forward and one that is good. I would hope the body would not agree to this particular amendment at this time.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Any further discussion on the Schimek amendment to LB 991? Seeing none, Senator Schimek, would you like to close?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you very much, Madam President, members of the body. I just had my staff call out to the Department of Corrections to find out what the overtime payments have been over the last couple of years for LCC and the Diagnostic Center, and the figures that they gave indicate that between July 1st of '92, and June 30th, I believe, of '93, there was \$152,909 in overtime, \$76,509 in comp time, and for July 1st, 1993 until now, \$139,101 in overtime, and \$140,825 in comp time. Now you add it up, and figure out whether we would be probably way ahead of the game if we had enough staff out there to adequately do the job. We are paying that much money almost in overtime and comp time, plus we have people who aren't getting time off, who don't have time with their families, and we have a situation out there that I believe is not the best kind of situation. I would like to say that I do appreciate Senator Moore's understanding of this issue. I think he understands it very well, and I think he has concerns about it. I do believe that there is a new administration and they are trying very hard to reright or to right some of the situations that have existed out there, but I don't think they can do it without adequate staff. I also think there are always pressures on administrators, no matter what department or agency, to trim everything they can out of the budget when it comes to budget time. This is one thing I do not think that we should trim. I really believe that not only from the staff's point of view out there, but also from those people who are housed, who do contact our office too, and they realize that the situation is not a good situation. I would ask you to support this amendment. It really is the right thing to do.